



Time Marches On - The 2024 CORE National Conference is scheduled for October 6-9, 2024, in Hawaii. Kamehameha Schools is hosting this year's conference. Toward mid-to-late February, Kamehameha Schools provided information to CORE member agencies concerning available housing, requests for proposals for conference presentations and nomination forms for the Catherine Hershey Awards.

It is our hope to have details wrapped up as soon as possible. That is why I'm asking that you select the pause button on whatever you are doing before the end of March and invest the time to take care of these details.

One of the strengths of our membership is high quality training for staff enrichment and development. Many of the agencies within our membership have personnel employed who are extremely capable of effectively promoting best practice and looking at ways to strengthen programs. As you read this, consider the fact that I could very well be talking about you. Would you consider completing a Request for Proposal form?

I know that collectively, the Coalition of Residential Excellence is comprised of agencies that are at the top of the leaderboard. Why not honor your colleagues by nominating them for outstanding achievement in one of the categories for which awards are being provided

Presentation of the Catherine Hershey Awards and the stories of those being honored has been a highlight of previous CORE National Conferences. Because of travel logistics with this year's conference, it is crucial that nominations be made now in order to for agencies to have time to make travel reservations in advance.

Most of our agencies describe their programs as strength based and family focused. That doesn't just happen. It falls into place when folks are committed to their work and are willing to go the second and third mile to ensure success for the children and families from hard places. Why not give credit where credit is due?

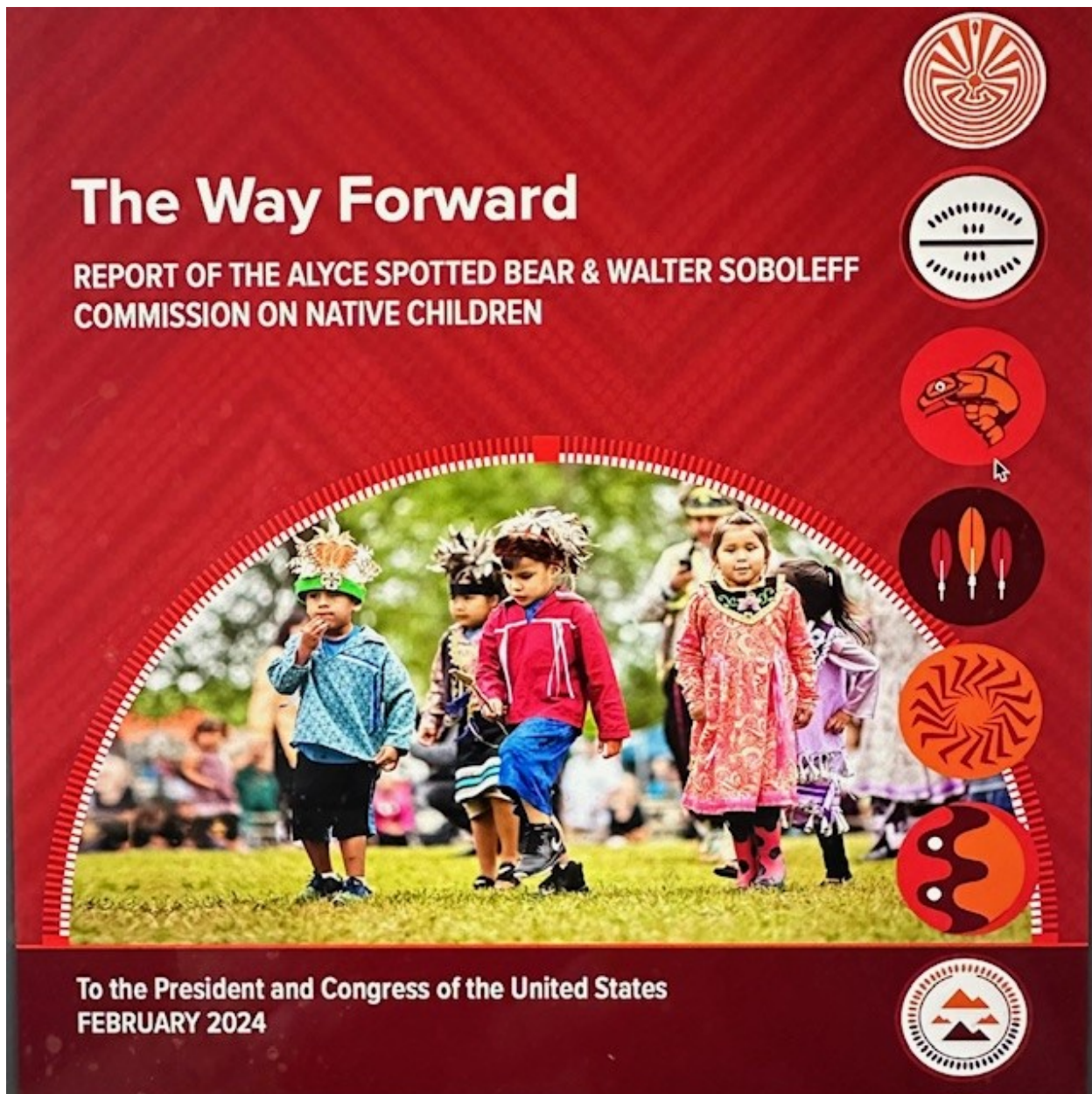
Nominating a colleague, for a worthy honor could enhance their level of awareness that they are valued by their agency for their work. That represents a WIN/WIN for both the person nominated and the person making the nomination.

These links can be used to submit an RFP or a nomination for receipt of a Catherine Hershey Award:

[2024 Catherine Hershey National Excellence Award Nominees \(google.com\)](#)

[Call For Presenters \(google.com\)](#)

Registration is available for the 2024 National Conference on the CORE website [www.CORE-DC.org]



<https://commissiononnativechildren.org/reports/TheWayForward.pdf>

February 20, 2024

To: The President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate:

Pursuant to the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children authorizing legislation (Public Law 114-244, October 14, 2016, as amended), we are pleased to transmit the official and final Report of the Commission on Native Children. This [Report](#) completes Congress' charge to the Commission, and we were honored to be Congress' stewards in listening to Native communities across the country describe their vision of what will support communities, children, and youth into the future. Based on its hearings, research, and study, the Report contains the Commission's recommendations for Federal legislative and administrative actions to improve education, child welfare, health, and justice outcomes for American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian children and youth ages 0 to 24. The Report represents the recommendations of the Commission as a whole, not their individual opinions, and is the only and exclusive Commission Report; no other report is endorsed by the Commission.

The Commission on Native Children was directed to conduct a comprehensive study of and make recommendations for improvements to the programs, grants, and supports available for American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian children. Building on Native values and Native strengths, the Commission offers this report with deep respect for the culture and traditions of Native people, acknowledging that Tribes and Tribal organizations have created successful approaches that can and should be scaled and supported to fulfill their potential. While much of the material is already available elsewhere, the Report gathers this material in conjunction with its own study in a comprehensive approach that brings into view the connections, crossover issues, and solutions among the various disciplines that address endemic and historic issues facing Native children and youth. The Commission is confident that the recommendations presented here will achieve the goals of the legislation and, if implemented, will provide the strategies to transform outcomes for Native children and youth, the hope for our future.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria O'Neill, Chair
Dr. Tami DeCoteau, Co-Chair

<https://commissiononnativechildren.org/reports/TheWayForward.pdf>



Legislative Update

H.R. 3852 – Create Accountable Respectful Environments (CARE) for Children Act

The Act was introduced by Rep. Neal Dunn [R-FL]. The bill currently has 17 cosponsors: 13 from Florida, 3 from Mississippi and 1 from Texas. The last cosponsor, Rep. Cory Mills from Florida signed on as a cosponsor on Feb. 28,

2024.

This legislation is supported by the Coalition of Residential Excellence. It would place children's homes back into the continuum of care for which IV-E funds could be used to cover the cost of care. Many of our member agencies are willing to serve as a resource for children in harm's way without cost, but programs are not being utilized because of the perception that what we have to offer has value. Until we are added back into the continuum of care, it is doubtful this perception will change.

Please continue to reach out to your legislator to request support for this legislation.

H.R. 2955 – Stop Institutional Child Abuse Act

The Act was introduced by Rep. Ro Khanna [D-CA] on 4/27/23. There are currently 82 cosponsors including the eight additional cosponsors added in February 2024. They include: Rep. Wiley Nickel [D-NC13], Rep. Terri Sewell [D-AL7], Rep. Mike Carey [R-OH15], Rep. Barbara Lee [D-CA12] and Rep. Derek Kilmer [D-WA6].

This bill establishes an interagency Federal Work Group on Youth Residential Programs to support and implement best practices regarding the health and safety, care, treatment, and appropriate placement of youth in youth residential programs.

The work group must develop recommendations about a national database to aggregate information about processes and outcomes for youth in such programs. The work group also must support the education and training of professional and paraprofessional personnel in fields that service such youth.

Further, the Department of Health and Human Services must contract with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to study and make recommendations about various aspects of federal and state oversight of youth residential programs.

Reportedly, the bill has 14% prognosis of passing.

S.1351 – Stop Institutional Child Abuse Act

The Act was introduced by Sen. Jeff Merkley [D-OR] on 4/27/23. Two additional cosponsors were added on in February 2024: Senator Debbie Stabenow [D-MI] and Senator John Kennedy [R-LA]. There are currently 23 cosponsors.

H.R. 755 – Protecting Sibling Relationships in Foster Care Act

The Act was introduced by Rep. Don Bacon on 2/02/23. There are 7 cosponsors.

This bill requires the Administration for Children and Families to establish a competitive pilot grant program for foster care agencies to increase the placement of siblings together in foster care.

H.R. 756 –Foster Care Stabilization Act

The Act was introduced by Rep. Bacon on 2/02/23. There are 7 cosponsors. The last cosponsor was added on August 1, 2024

S.102 – Foster Care Stabilization Act

The Act was introduced by Sen. Deb Fisher on January 26, 2023. There is one Cosponsor.

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